

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in view of the this Amendment. Claim 46 is cancelled by this Amendment and its limitation is added to claim 39. Other amendments, made to claim 39 and to claims 40-44, 48-62, 66-73, are to improve clarity and avoid lack of antecedent basis.

Claim 39

Claim 39 recites the step of determining which building blocks to include in a subset of the building blocks, based on the results of measurement of the first parameter. Measurement of a further parameter is made on the subset. Claim 39 is amended to specify that the determining step is performed automatically by a data processing system.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests determining a subset of building blocks as claimed, much less that the determination be performed automatically by a data processing system. Therefore, claim 39 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 41-45, 47-61 and 77-78

Claims 41-45, 47-61 and 77-78 depend from claim 39. The limitations that they add to claim 39 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 41-45, 47-61 and 77-78, also, are patentable over the prior art.

For example, claim 77 includes all of the limitations of claim 39, which is patentable over the prior art as explained above. For that reason alone, claim 77 is also patentable. However, claim 77 further includes an added limitation relating to comparing the first parameter to a predetermined limit value. This added limitation is not suggested by the references and thus distinguishes claim 77 further from the prior art.

Similarly, claim 78 includes all of the limitations of claim 39, which is patentable over the prior art as explained above. For that reason alone, claim 78 is also patentable. However, claim 78 further includes an added limitation that the subset measured by the further sensor includes fewer than all of the building blocks measured by the first sensor. This added limitation is not suggested by the references and thus distinguishes claim 78 further from the prior art.

Claim 62

Claim 62, as amended, recites a data processing device that selects the subset of building blocks to be measured by the second sensor. The selection is based on results of the measurements of the first parameter made by the first sensor.

None of the references discloses the claimed device that selects which building blocks to be measured by the second sensor, much less that the selection be based on measurements of the first parameter as claimed. Therefore, claim 62 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 63-76

Claims 63-76 depend from claim 62. The limitations that they add to claim 62 distinguish them further from the prior art. Therefore, claims 63-76, also, are patentable over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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